

EQUALIZING X DISTORT

Issue 3

December 2001

Featuring members from the 2nd and 3rd generation of punk bands in Toronto, the **CLASS ASSASSINS** are made up of members from **HOCKEY TEETH**, **PROBLEM CHILDREN**, **DIRECT ACTION**, and **CHRONIC SUBMISSION**. With two eps out and an LP in the works, they took time out to play at CIUT on December 2nd and here is part of our discussion afterwards.

You guys are lots of ex-members people. Can you tell me about which bands your first started playing in and bring me up to date with how you joined the CLASS ASSASSINS ?

Chad: I started off in a band, when I was 12 or 13, called **CHRONIC SUBMISSION**. I went onto a few other bands after that and then **VACANT LOT** and then **BITTER GRIN** - which is in hiatus.

Gary: I am Gary and I played in **PROBLEM CHILDREN** for about 7 years and then Dan took over my spot on drums.

Dave: (Laughing) Dan's a bastard. I started out in a band from St. Catharines called the **UNKNOWNNS** in the 70's and Dan took my girlfriend. (more laughter) So then I moved onto a band called **DIRECT ACTION** and from there I went to a band called **HYPE** and then I played in a band called **SON OF BRONTO**, and then I played in a band called the **LOOGANS** and then I got stuck with these losers.

Dan: I used to play in a bunch of bands. The same kind of things as these guys.

Including BABIES WITH RABIES ?

Chris: Both Dan and I were in **HOCKEY TEETH**, as well.

How did the CLASS ASSASSINS start ?

Dan: I've always wanted to play with these guys. Essentially I got all my favourite people together that I liked as musicians. They seemed to be from the same kind of wavelength. It's one of those things.

So Dan pulled it together ?

Dave: Basically.

How long have you been together ?

Chad: Just under two years.

Can you describe your sound ? In BYOFL - the listing - that is where I first read about you - you are described as 'old school with soccer style crowd chants'.

Although that captures some of what your sound is, how would you update this description ?

Chris: I think the idea is that it reverts back to the **SEX PISTOLS** era when it was more rock 'n roll - given a punk name and that's what it is. We are not trying to play as fast as we can. We're not trying to get everyone up



slamming their heads off in front of us. It's more of a rock and punk influence together and a lot of the old school references comes from the **SEX PISTOLS** where they were a lot more rock.

And there are great sing-a-longs, too.

Chris: Absolutely, and the chants follow in right after that.

It reminds me of the CLASH or STIFF LITTLE FINGERS with the back up vocals.

Dave: We talked about that when we first started. Bands like **STIFF LITTLE FINGERS** or that era and that's how we were hoping to try and write songs. We are probably close to that.

Chris: You look through the history of the members and everybody in this band can play fast but we wanted to play melodic. **I want to ask you about influences. Who do you credit as influences ? What are you listening to that sounds like what you play ?**

Chris: You know that as I was learning how to play when I was younger Brian Baker was a big influence for me.

From DAG NASTY or MINOR THREAT ?

Chris: **DAG NASTY** years moreso. Loved his strumming. He was really cool.

Dan: I think we are all kind of in an 80's kind of punk rock thing where we all have different tastes...

And I am sure that you guys are coming at it from different perspectives because although you have played in different bands together you grew up in hardcore at different times. There is different generations of punk rock represented in this group

Dan: ...but there are a lot of similarities

Chad: Like we all grew up in the 80's - late 70's early 80's - hardcore, punk, oi, reggae, ska - all that kind of stuff.

Dave: Metal

Chad: Metal ? That's for Chris. That's where you get those 90210 riffs (laughter).

I wanted to ask you about the demo that became the ep. I heard that it was a 6 song

demo, what happened to the other 3 songs ? Are they going to be released on anything else ?

Dave: I think they are going to be on the full length that is coming out in February or March. Soon to be released.

Can you tell me about how the Soap 'n Spikes ep came out ? How did Derek find out about you ?

Chad: Derek saw us at our third or fourth show and he really really liked us and he approached one of us and said "Listen, I really like you guys and I want to do your first single before anybody else does it." I think at that time we already had our ep recorded and basically the demo we did was a 6 song promotional thing that only labels and fanzines got so we basically took three songs off the demo and gave it to him and he released it and...

Chris: ...and he broke our virginity.

More recently, you released an ep entitled "No justice No Peace" on Insurgence Records. How did that come about ? How did he find out about you ? Did you know him before hand ?

Chad: I kind of knew him beforehand.

Dan: I helped him move a long time ago.

Chad: I actually don't remember how we came to do this.

Dave: Steve come on in here and answer this one.

Steve Jones (from Insurgence Records): We were in the area. We met up and it just happened. As much as everything else does.

Dave: He bribed us with beer.

Is this a different recording from the demo ?

Dan: Yeah, this is a different recording than the demo.

I understand that you are working on new material - you were talking about a March release. What is that going to be for ? Who is going to put it out ? What is it going to be called ?

Chad: We are not quite sure of the name. There is only one person holding out on it and that's Mr. "90210", but we were thinking about calling it "90210". (laughter) It's going to be out in Canada, South America, and Britain on *Insurgence Records* and in the States, Australia, and Japan on *TKO Records* and basically the rest of Europe on *Mad Butcher Records*.

And you have been recording this over the last month ?

Chad: It is already finished, we just have to master it.

How does it sound ?

Dave: Awesome

How many songs are going to be on it ?
 Chad: Eleven or twelve. We did thirteen, but there's one or two that we're not happy with, but that's all 90210's fault.
You get all the blame.

Chris: I take it because I write all the songs.
 (laughter)

Is it going to be a CD or will there be a vinyl issue ?

Dan: It's on CD. There is going to be some limited vinyl out.

Chad: TKO is putting out 200 vinyl and there is going to be an extra track on the Canadian version which will be out on Insurgence. And I don't know what the Germans are up to because you never know what the Germans are up to, but that's just the Germans.

Dave: Everything is going to have a different cover so...

...you can collect them all.

Chris: I think the Europe release has just a picture of Dave naked on the front.

Chad: That would be the Germans, too.

(laughter) Yeah the Germans would like that.

Dave: It wouldn't be the first time.

Chris: It's called "Das Stumpy". (lots of laughter)

Can you tell us about your songs. What are some of the things you sing about or take on with your lyrics ?

Chad: Some of the songs are about the scene. Some of the songs are very political. I've been in bands for a long time that I have never really had a chance to be political and this is the first band that I have been with that I have had a chance because the music is heavy enough but still melodic enough the way I like it. Singing about social issues, about the state of the world, about how pissed off I am from my perspective, although I think I sing for most people in the band with the exception of Dave because he's the old bastard in the band. The song "No Justice, No Peace" is a song about how the class system is being broken down, which is not necessarily a bad thing, but it's the way that it is being done that is widening the gap between the rich and the poor and I see more poor and homeless people on the streets every day and it's got to do with things like rent increases, gas prices, the cost of food inflation - anything along those lines. It's becoming a sad state of affairs. It needs to be fixed.

What is your favourite song from a lyrical standpoint and why ?

Gary: Mine is "Class Assassins" because I think it is very witty the way Chad wrote it.

Dave: "For the Kids" would be my favourite because it goes back to being young and not really being too sure of yourself and what the hell can happen to you if you don't stand up

for what you believe or what you think.

Dan: "Hard Times" which is a song about the same sort of thing that Chad was talking about. I like playing songs like that because the more you can make people think about shit like that the more it will create change.

Chris: "Behind your screen" because it is the only song that really flows with a complete story from beginning to end. He introduces the story and completely closes it off and shows anger within the song where it should

be angry. But the other one I might have is "Urban Rebel"

because I remember when we were writing the song, Dan came out with the music and we polished it and Chad and I hooked up and Pete came over

and we had some beers going and we had a good time just mulling lyrics over and this is what we got. So it brings us back to the initial days. It's a fond memory.

What do you hope to accomplish as a band ?

Chad: The new full length is recorded. It's done, it's recorded and hopefully we can start doing a few shows in Canada and then get down to the States where our label in the States can support us and hook us up with some bigger name acts. Then hopefully get over to Europe in September or October and just get our name out there. That's why we did the two singles, which was to get our name out there and we have been on a few comps. We wanted to get our name out there before we released a full length so that some people know about us by the time it comes out.

How can people get in touch with the CLASS ASSASSINS ?

Chris: Right now the e-mail address is classassassins@hotmail.com and our website is in the works right now and we'll have our own domain at classassassins.com.

Chad: The mailing address is 989 Queen Street East, Apt. #3 / Toronto, ON / M4M 1K2. Sorry girls, no phone numbers.



EQUALIZING DISTORT

ISSUE 3

EQUALIZING-X-DISTORT MONTHLY is an extension of the weekly radio show heard on CIUT 89.5 FM every Sunday nights from 10:00pm 'til midnight (Hosts: Martin Farkas, Nosh Gadke, Simon Harvey and Stephanie Perry).

The show dedicates itself to the underground hardcore punk scene. There is a particular emphasis on international releases in the developing thrash, power violence, straight edge, grind burning spirits, and Killed By Death scenes, which means we play material like No Justice, Wilbur Cobb, Seein' Red, Sounds like Shit, DSB or Youth Youth Youth.

There is a weekly demo feature (paying homage to the cassette format), weekly event listings, and a monthly top 10 retrospective look at releases.

Equalizing-X-Distort

CIUT 89.5 FM

Sundays 10:00 pm - midnight

91 St. George Street,

Toronto, ON

M5S 2E8

Canada

Request Line: (416) 946-7000

e-mail: equalizingXdistort@ciut.fm

Website: www.ciut.fm



CIUT 89.5 FM - "Equalizing Distort"

Top 10 Hardcore Releases
for November 2001

Band

1. Total Fury
2. Jellyroll Rockheads
3. Deride
4. Splitting Teeth
5. Assinine Solution
6. Born Dead Icons
7. Bruce Banner / Sayyadina
8. Siren
9. Various Artists
10. Contrasto

Title

- 13 Songs
- Kill Trend Thrash
- Limited Will
- Legacy of Cruciality
- Cause Effect
- Modern Plague
- The Inevitable Truth
- The Struggle Goes On
- Wild in the Streets
- Statico Senso

Format Label

- LP Dan-Doh
- ep Youth Attack
- ep Kangaroo
- ep 1-2-3-4 Go!
- ep Assinine
- ep indepent
- ep Sounds of Betrayal
- ep Reflections
- ep Element
- LP AgiPunk

Equalizing Distort can be heard every Sunday night on CIUT 89.5 FM at 10:00 pm. The top 10 countdown can be heard in its entirety, complete with previews of the picks and analysis on the previous month in hardcore, on the last Sunday of the month.

reviews

Asinine Solution "Cause Effect" EP

Asinine Solution alternate between fast hardcore and metal somehow pulling off a sound unlike a crossover band. I suppose if the H100s had borrowed a few Slayer riffs they would have sounded somewhat similar to Asinine Solution. This records maintains breakneck speed while maintaining a definite flow. This doesn't let up for a second!

(Asinine Records / 3095 N.50th Ave. / Chippewa Falls, WI / 54729)



Born Dead Icons "Salvation on the Knees" LP

Dissonant ringing out rock-core that this Montreal group have become known for. At times BDI sound like a stripped down version of MOTORHEAD (it is crazy how much the singer sounds like Lemmy) and at other times sound like a version of HIS HERO IS GONE with their ability to ride emo guitar structures. Their lyrics rival the anarchist slogans of DISCHARGE, but approach subjects that develop this canon of thought. A thought provoking release that creeps up on you until the "rock" is in your bones, with a crusty Portland frame of mind....dished up by former members of DRIFT.

(Partners in Crime / 4507 N. Gantenbein / Portland, OR / 97217 / USA)



Crusade demo

CRUSADE have fastcore influences with some of the drum rolls and also incorporate lots of group choruses, which is typical for traditional Japanese hardcore. The recording sounds a bit like East bay punks doing fastcore - a bit mediocre for the genre with an emphasis on fuzzier recordings. The recording is lo fi, basement style but the back up vocals make it sound like a studio recording. At times it sounds like the MISFITS at other times it sounds like a third rate RAZOR'S EDGE knock off.

(Kazuki / 090-1547-0468 Haneken / Opo-8340-8558 / Japan)



Deride "Limited Will" ep

The Japanese continue to perfect everything and hardcore is no exception. Flawless in execution, energetic and driving, manic and intense. The song structures are all over the place, the production sounds good, the choruses are unexpected and have you paying attention. This is an adrenalin rush that combines slight elements of rock borrowed from the garage scene and weaves them into the go-driven nature of fastcore. Tight edits between songs give this record crazy momentum.

(Kangaroo Records / Middenweg 13 / 1098aa, Amsterdam / Holland / e-mail: tyson@xsail.nl)



Endstand "Fire Inside" 10"

ENDSTAND sound like HACKSAW with more Youth crew and emo influences. ENDSTAND play a controlled anger version of punk at a rock tempo with early GRADE like guitar strumming parts and at other times there is an incredible amount of melody. But the gasoline like vocals keeps this from sounding like fodder.

(Combat Rock Industry / P.O. Box 139 / 00131 Helsinki / Finland)



FRAMTID are from Osaka City in Japan and have just recorded this new demo in July of this year. They play d-beat but with a greater emphasis on hardcore. The vocals are throaty and take a back seat to the rest of the band. There is a guitar solo that is mixed way too loud in one of the songs on side one.

(3A, Taihou-Heights-Shikitu 2 / 2-1-28, Shikitu-Nishi, Naniwa-Ku / Osaka-City, 556-0015 / Japan)



The Grizzly Adams Band "Stupid group I got" ep

This is garage with influences from the 60's rock scene. They sound like a slower NEW BOMB TURKS without any of the good parts. The guitar is fuzzed out and plays mid-tempo rock. The occasional back ups give it some energy. A few songs run into each other giving it the tight edit feel. It is recorded real loud and distorted. But the trace element of fuzzed out rock with some punk overtones is what this is about.

(Chief Recordings / c/o Peter Richter / Grune Gasse 13 / 48143 Munster / e-mail: peet@muenster.ca)



Holler than Thou? "The Hating of the Guts" LP

HOLLER THAN THOU? are a band that successfully mix the urgency of the old school hardcore/mystic sound and cross it with a fun approach to skateboarding and the intensity of modern day thrash outfits. The 7" that HTT? released earlier in the year provided just a glimpse at the intensity of their debut LP, The Hating of the Guts. This band have their style of manic skatecore down pat, and by doing so pay homage to bands like RKL and ILL REPUTE. Every song on this record is a winner (including one reworked from the 7") and it's obvious this is one band that is worthy of putting out an LP - after the 7" they had people chomping at the bit for more. It could be said that HTT? aren't doing anything terribly original or inventive, but that's hardly the point behind a record like this. HTT? represent hardcore the way it was meant to be played. Not full of gimmicks or riding whatever is currently trendy, but playing fast hardcore for the sake of fast hardcore.

(Six Weeks / 225 Lincoln Ave / Cotati, CA / 94931 / USA)



Manifesto Jukebox "Desire" LP

Jangly guitar sounding rock punk similar to HACKSAW or SWIZ. They could even be said to have borrowed from bands like 3 or RITES OF SPRING. I even see the LEATHERFACE comparisons but I like this better because the singer doesn't sound like a Tom Waits impersonator the way Frankie Stubbs does. But the mindfuck is that they are from Finland. There lyrics are great especially for folks who's english is a second language.

(Combat Rock Industry / P.O. Box 139 / 00131 Helsinki / Finland)



Orange Juice from the Crypt "A Dinner With Us" ep

This is like NEW BOMB TURKS cousin with all the garage and punk influences, but a little less gusto. They carry that ANGRY SAMOANS attitude and extra punk points for the dumpster dive on the cover, but they don't rock you as hard. They do a song that makes fun of little Richard and indirectly pays homage to the early glam punk scene.

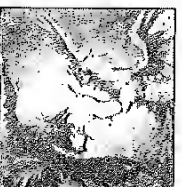
(Scarey Records / c/o Carlo Calomme / via Galleria, 32/1 / 10025 pino t.se (to) / Italy / e-mail: scarey@libero.it)



Run for your fucking life LP

This is a collection of their two eps on one LP. RUN FOR YOUR FUCKING LIFE just broke up but this is a good way to get their CHRIST ON PARADE meets DON AUSTIN sound. Good mid-tempo punk structures, with Sound Pollution production, and some BORN AGAINST angst. It kind of reminds me of ECONOCHRIST, when thrown all together.

(Gloom Records / P.O. Box 14253 / Albany, NY / 12212 / USA)



Severed Head of State "Black Blood World" ep

Dirty sounding emo-crust in the spirit of ARTIMUS PYLE done by some of the best folks of this scene. Raw and scrappy sounding, fast and moody, they draw on references as far as SABBATH and emo with it's grounding firmly rooted in d-beat. But it is nor your typical d-beat sound. This band has really geled and the experience of RESIST and TRAGEDY



are there. It's speedy and moody and urgent emo-crust and it is fuckin' amazing.

(Malarie Records / P.O. Box 153 / 75661 Roznov P/R / Czech republic / e-mail: malarie@applet.cz)

Siren "The Struggle Goes On" EP

Fantastic youth crew hardcore in a slightly modern vein. The fact that this band is three quarters female is a breath of fresh air in a scene dominated by knucklehead football players. Fast bursts of straight up hardcore interspersed with breakdowns that are slightly reminiscent of newer bands like GOOD CLEAN FUN, which is an obvious connection as the guitarist is borrowed from that band. Rumor has it that the songs were all written by the guitarist who then recruited the other members. I can only hope this will not be confirmed as it would make the effort very disappointing and entirely contrived.

(Reflections Records / Spoorwgstraat 117 / 6828 AP Arnhem / The Netherlands)

Spazm 151 "Sworn to fun, loyal to none" ep

Blazing fast thrash-core with '88 crew sound wind ups and underlying garage influences. It's what you get when you take FINAL CONFLICT and combine them with DOWN IN FLAMES and add a dash of TEEN CRUD COMBO. It's peace core thrash that uses POSION IDEA structures. It's just fuckin' core that blazes.

(Uncontrolled Records / P.O. Box 15020 / Dallas, TX / 75315-0206 / USA)

Total Fury "13 Songs" LP

It is no surprise that the label who has adopted the Dischord logo has now released the biggest DC worship record of Japanese hardcore history. TOTAL FURY remind me most of GOVERNMENT ISSUE and MINOR THREAT but, do so without entirely losing hints of the better aspects of modern Japanese "fastcore." The original Dan-Doh pressing of this record is limited to something like 500 records and available only in Japan however, look for a domestic re-issue coming very soon on Gloom records. (Dan-Doh Records / Honmachi 21-26 Kochi 780-0870 / Japan)

Wasted "Down and Out" CD

A blend of streetpunk and Gilman renaissance-core, WASTED sound like a cross between the OXYMORONS and ISOCRACY. They have the Billy Jo vocals, but the songs have all these group choruses that sound like pub chants a la PETER AND THE TEST TUBE BABIES. The music is oi type punk with some melody and would be like what GREEN DAY would sound like if they played streetpunk. The lyrics are rooted in progressive politics and go deeper than your average punk band. A booklet of lyrics comes with the release. More great hardcore surprises from Tampere, Finland.

(Combat Rock Industry / P.O. Box 139 / 00131 Helsinki / Finland)



show listings

MONDAY DECEMBER 31ST - DANKO JONES / THE CHICKENS @ Lee's Palace, \$16

SUNDAY JANUARY 6TH - HATEBREED / POISON THE WELL / SWORN ENEMY @ Reverb, \$15, 8pm

SUNDAY JANUARY 13TH - PUNK ROCK MOVIE NIGHT @ KYTES (Augusta Ave - Kensington Market), 6:00 pm - crusty anarcho-punk thm - i) Oi Polloi Documentary AND ii) Hannover Chaos Days footage

THURSDAY JANUARY 17TH - LECTURE: WARD CHURCHILL @ Location TBA, 7:00pm, \$10 or \$5 for students

THURSDAY JANUARY 17TH - TODAY IS THE DAY @ Cathedral, 8pm

SUNDAY JANUARY 20TH - STEP SISTER / NO TIME LEFT / OXBAKER / CAREER SUICIDE @ TBA

If you are trying to find out about shows in the city you can call the Hardcore Hotline at (416) 535-8184 or consult the "The Show Listings Guide", which can be subscribed from at freaksnerdsromantics@gmail.com. If there is a show that you know about that isn't on this list, please forward it onto us at equalizingdistort@cinet.fm.

rumourmill

Full Contact for issue #6 is partially back from the bindery.

Apparently the bindery didn't like some of the content for being anti-christian and is being difficult about putting together 600 copies of the zine. The place is called Holmes Bindery. What is it with christians?

* Full Contact will be available in Barnes & Nobles stores throughout the States. Lookout suburbs. * The publisher of the mag had a proposal into MuchMusic for doing a punk show, but it got turned down. Much said they are going to start their own show. Yeah, right! * The "Toronto Breakout" comp is a joint project with Mike Haliczuk and Deranged Records. Deranged will also be doing a joint release with some folks involved in our radio show on a NUNFUCKERS discography * BOMBS OVER PROVIDENCE are working on a full length release to come out on Underground Operations, the label that the guys from CLOSET MONSTER do * Deranged has been taking a slugging on the Rev Board, what gives? * Ductape has their 7th anniversary party. Sounds like it is going to be a fun time * Jill Heath is distroing copies of the Fucked Up and Photocopied for a limited time and they are pretty cheap so if you want to get a copy e-mail Jill at jillmheath@globalserve.net * Full Contact is doing a guitar giveaway contest for creative art. The most creative entry wins. Entries can include art, music, video, photos - creative is the big thing. Details can be found at www.fullcontactmag.com * OUR WAR have just finished a new recording which includes a cover of C.O.C.'s "No Drunk" * Fans of Bad Productions is working on their next all Canadian comp, which is to be called "Always Sounding Off" * I now this isn't close to home but I figured because their record is reviewed in the new issue Gloom Records (out of Albany) will be releasing the TOTAL FURY LP domestically - so to speak * London from CLOSET MONSTER will turn Underground Operations into this city's next full fledged label releasing the new BOMBS OVER PROVIDENCE material among other things (including a MARILYN'S VITAMINS anthology) * Bennett is starting to host free punk rock movies every three weeks on Sundays. This will be operating out of KYTES which is the old Siboney Club in the market * OUR WAR has a website and the URL is www.scumm.net/ihatetorock/ourwar/ * The Deranged website is up and functioning and looks great and is www.derangedrecords.com * Deranged put out a wicked sampler comp that is available through mailorder only for \$3.00. The second one is rumoured to be in the works * In other Deranged related news EPILEPTIC TERROR ATTACK will be changing their name because of the association of their acronym to the Basque separatist group. Could this be an unforeseen punk casualty to the so-called "War on Terrosim"? * The new INTENSITY and HIGHSCORE records have just been released on Deranged * THE CLASS CD has just been released on Wounded Paw Records *

demo features

Our War demo - featured on November 18th program

OUR WAR feature Jeff Beekman of CHOKEHOLD/LEFT FOR DEAD/HAYMAKER fame, along side Christian from LEFT FOR DEAD/THE SWARM and Ryan Elinsky from MR. NOBODY/HOLOCRON/CTO. They play a very early sounding style of Boston 80's sXe reminiscent of SSD, and the LAST RITES cover helps. This is in the vein of HAYMAKER. (8 Coronet Court / Hamilton, ON / L9A 3J1 / e-mail: xourxwar@hotmail.com)

Paluka demo - featured on November 25th program

Art-rock combined with fastcore using new wave guitar tricks resembling ABURADAKO, while incorporating crunchy sXe guitar parts and having it clock in under a minute. Unique, while retaining a get-into-the-pit urgency. (Go Nkanura / 3-6-12 Hujimidai / Kunitachi-shi / Tokyo 186-000 / Japan / e-mail: go-decide@mwa.biglobe.ne.jp)

Demos are featured on a weekly basis for Equalizing-X-Distort.